

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement in the Office Action, page 5, top, that claims 7-9, 11, 14, 16, 25-27, 29, 32, 34, 44-46, 48, 51, and 53 are objected to. Applicant understands that each of these claims would be allowed if either rewritten in independent form or if the claim from which it depends were rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant rewrites the appropriate claims to meet these conditions.

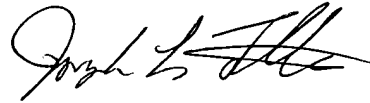
Although the present application did not earlier have claims numbered 55-62, these claims are re-presentations of formerly multiple-dependent claims now rewritten in independent form. The status indicators provide the prior numbering of the claims.

In view of the amendments above, applicant now submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/290,419

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time; Amendment Transmittal